



21 DAYS



PRAY

FAST

JOURNEY INTO JOHN 17

INTRODUCTION

For 21 days, we want to invite you to soak in Jesus' prayer in John 17 as we prepare our mind and hearts for Easter. After all, this is the last recorded prayer that Jesus prayed, on the night right before he died.

Question:

Have you ever been with someone on the last night of their life when they knew it was the last night of their life?

If they knew then whatever they prayed would be words of great clarity. I wonder what you might pray if you knew it was your last night here on earth?

John 17 is what Jesus prayed on the last night of His life and it should be the things we regularly be praying for. Expect God to meet you in real and personal ways as you take this 21-day journey that will include a lot of praying, reflecting and fasting.

Read the chapter regularly; you may even consider memorizing parts of it. And follow along and pray daily, using the prayer prompts provided to you in this booklet. Together, let's seek the face of the Lord, asking Him to cause us to see and know, and respond rightly to His glory that we were made to display. We also want to use this time to ask God to bless our efforts in inviting our friends and family to our Good Friday and Easter services!

"When Jesus had spoken these words, He lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you." - John 17:1

Jesus came to reveal the glory of the Father to us, but it wasn't just so we would see it. He came so we could know and trust the Father's heart. He came so that, seeing God's glory, we would respond in surrender and love to the King of Glory. He came so He could redirect our worship to right God. The Apostle Paul tells us that we have been given "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6). So as Jesus approached the end of His life on earth, He prayed that this revelation of God's glory would have its full

TWENTY ONE
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effect. John 17 is the longest prayer of Jesus recorded in the Scriptures. And as Jesus prayed, we want to pray this prayer for us, our families, our faith family at Montavilla and for those in our sphere of influence that are not yet followers of King Jesus.

You are invited to join others at Montavilla to pray together on the following dates:

Monday, March 31	6:30 am and 6:30 pm	Church Office
Wednesday, April 2	6:30 am and 6:30 pm	Church Office
Monday, April 7	6:30 am and 6:30 pm	Church Office
Wednesday, April 9	6:30 am and 6:30 pm	Church Office
Sunday, April 13	6-7 pm	Sanctuary
Monday, April 14	6:30 am and 6:30 pm	Church Office
Wednesday, April 16	6:30 am and 6:30 pm	Church Office

TWENTY ONE
DAYS

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

TWENTY ONE
DAYS

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

How to PRAY . . .

Praying is spiritual breathing, essential for us to grow as followers, apprentices of Jesus. As we meditate on God's Word, we breathe in the promises and purposes of God. In prayer, we also breathe out, responding to God's Word to us. Each day in this guide, there will be one verse from John 17 and a few prayer responses to guide your praying. Throughout the 21 days, you will be praying for specific areas in your life, our church at Montavilla, and our preparation for Easter. Together, let's put our faith into action, trusting in the promises of God for us and our church. Below are some helpful tips on how to make the most of this guide:

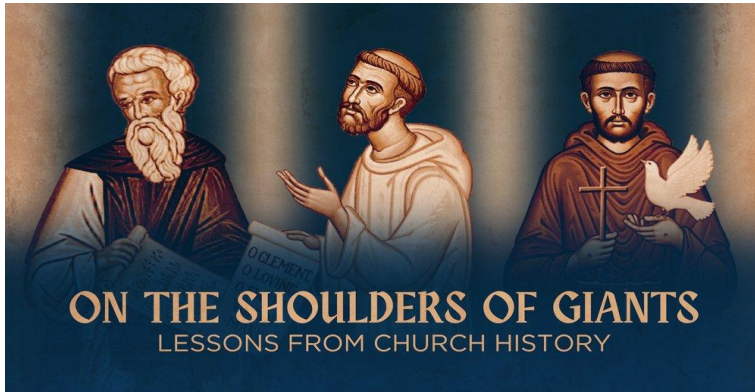
- Commit to a specific time each day to devote to prayer. Find a place where you can be free of distractions and be alone with God.
- Use the prayer points and Scripture in this guide to focus and fuel your praying. Write the Scripture and prayer point on a card and carry it with you, post it on your social media, make it the screensaver on your phone—whatever you can think of to keep these prayer prompts in front of you. Use them throughout the day and invite others to join you in praying. In fact, plan on coming to some of the special prayer gatherings that will be available during these 21 days of prayer with fasting at Montavilla.
- You can take it a step further by journaling your prayers each day, simply writing out your prayers in the space provided. It's a great opportunity to make a record of what you are praying so that you go back and see where God is working in response to your prayer.
- In addition, you may consider ways to pray with others during this season. Set up phone calls, texts. Pray together as a family.
- Meditate - These are Jesus' words. Don't just read them and move on. Run them over in your mind. Let them sink into your heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you as you ponder the prayer of your Savior.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

How to FAST . . .

Why do we fast? Simply put, the goal of fasting is to turn ourselves from worldly things and set our minds and hearts fully on God. It is not a way to manipulate God to hear and answer our prayers; rather, it acknowledges our complete dependence on him. Fasting awakens us to the reality that we are so often driven by our fleshly desires and appetites. It humbles us and awakens us to our great need for and reliance on God. As you consider fasting, we want to encourage you to listen to the Holy Spirit. Ask God to lead you in this time of seeking his face. Whether you choose to fast for one day, several days, or the entire 21 days, the point is to humble yourself in a new way and draw near to God. Here are some ideas of what you could choose:

- You might choose a selective fast, eliminating certain things from your diet. Eating only fruits and vegetables, what some might call a “Daniel fast,” is an example of this type of fasting.
- Another option is a partial fast, which is refraining from eating for a set period of time each day. You could choose to fast from a single meal or from sunup to sundown.
- Some of you may feel led to engage in a complete fast, refraining from eating and only drinking liquids for 1-2 days a week.



Early Christians fasted frequently and with great importance as a way to turn their physical desires to God and deepen their prayers. Church history tells us in the early church they often fasted on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Therefore, you can choose what day works best for you. Yet we are specifically encouraging you to consider a 12-or 24-hour fast from all food on Wednesdays during these 21 days (April 2nd, 9th, and 16th).

TWENTY ONE
DAYS

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

John 17 (NIV)

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

⁶ “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³ “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

John 17 continued

²⁰ “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴ “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. ²⁵ “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you^e known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

WEEK

4
PRAYING FOR
YOURSELF,
FRIENDS, AND
FAMILY

TWENTY ONE
DAYS

DAY 1

V.1: After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

Father. Jesus addressed God as Father. As sons and daughters, we have the same privilege. We read in 2 Corinthians 1:3 that “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort. Today, rejoice in this wonderful truth and cry out to God for his mercy and grace.

- 1) Praise God that by faith in Jesus, you have become his disciple. You are now his precious child, loved and cherished by your Father.
- 2) Recall his faithfulness to you and thank him for his past mercies in your life.
- 3) Where do you need mercy and grace today? Ask your Father to pour out his goodness and mercy on you.
- 4) What family members, coworkers, neighbors or friends who haven't fully surrendered their lives to Jesus can you add to your “7 for heaven” (see next page).
Suggestion: Print out your “7 for heaven” and keep it somewhere that you can see it daily.

Below are some ways to pray for not yet Christians.

- *Pray that God would open their hearts to believe the gospel.* (Acts 16:14).
- *Pray that God would free them from the slavery of sin.* Not yet Christians may believe they are free, but they are in fact enslaved. They are slaves of sin, bound by their sin. (Rom. 6:17).
- *Pray that God would remove Satan's blinding influence.* Not yet Christians have been blinded by Satan, so pray that God would give them sight—“spiritual sight.” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

- *Pray that God's kindness would lead them to repentance. (Rom. 2:4)*
- *Pray that they would come to their senses and that they would escape from the devil's snare. (2 Timothy 2:25-26).*
- *Pray that God would use any circumstance to do His work in them. We pray to a God who sovereignly works His good will in us. Often God saves people through difficult circumstances, through bringing them to the very end of themselves. Pray, then, that God would arrange circumstances, whether easy or difficult, to lead them to salvation.*



7
for Heaven

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5.

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7.

Signature:

(I will commit to praying for these people daily.)

DAY 2

V.1: After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

Father, the hour has come. Jesus recognized that this was the reason for his coming to earth. This was God’s sovereign plan, to sacrifice his only Son for our salvation. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus would pray again, “*My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will*” (Matthew 26:39). Jesus surrendered himself to the Father’s will.

- 1) Give thanks today that Jesus willingly laid down his life for your salvation.
- 2) What do you need today? Ask him to provide for you, knowing that He who did not spare his only Son will freely give us all things (Romans 8:32).
- 3) Where do you need to follow Jesus’ example today and lay down your own life for the sake of the gospel? Ask God to lead you in denying yourself and following Jesus as his disciple.
- 4) Ask God to provide opportunities for you to invite others to be a part of Good Friday and Easter at Montavilla Church.
- 5) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.”

Prayers for yourself towards not yet Christians.

- *Pray that you will develop relationships with them.* (Romans 10:14).

- *Pray for opportunities to express the light of Jesus to them. (Matthew 5:14-16).*
- *Pray for a burden to pray for their souls. (Romans 10:1).*
- *Pray for boldness in generating and taking opportunities to speak Truth in love to them. (Ephesians 6:19).*
- *Pray for other followers of Jesus (1 Corinthians 3:6).*

DAY 3

V.1: After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.”

Glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you. Jesus didn't ask for glory for his own sake. He wanted his life, death, and resurrection to bring glory to his Father. Our lives lived in surrender to the Father, should also result in the glory of the Father being seen. In John 15:8, Jesus said, *“By this, my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”*

- 1) Confess the places where you are tempted to draw attention to yourself and seek your glory.
- 2) Pray that the Holy Spirit will show you where and how to lay down your life so that others may see and know the glory of God.
- 3) Jesus, who was sinless and had uninterrupted fellowship with the Father, saw the need to pray regularly. What does this say about the nature of prayer? Does this change how you view prayer today?
- 4) Ask God to give you favor in specific relationships, so that others can see the glory of God in your witness.
- 5) Continue asking God to use your witness to draw those you have invited to Montavilla Church to Himself!
- 6) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.”

DAY 4

V.2. “For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.”

You have given him authority over all flesh. The Father has placed everything under Jesus’ feet; nothing and no one is outside of his authority. In Matthew 28:18–19, Jesus said, “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples...*” As disciples and disciple-makers, our commission and success depend on that authority.

- 1) Praise God today that nothing can come against him or thwart the Father’s purposes and plans for you.
- 2) Ask God to free you from fear and anxiety, and to give you confidence and hope in the sovereign goodness of your Savior.
- 3) Ask the Father to show you where you need to step out in faith, surrendering yourself to His sovereign plan to bring glory to Himself through your life.
- 4) Ask God to work in the lives of your family and friends, praying for them by name.
- 5) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.”

DAY 5

Vv. 2-3 “For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

To give eternal life to all whom you have given him. Let this sink in. The Father loved you and chose you and called you. Ephesians 1:4–5 tells us that “*He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love, He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ.*” Because of that, we have the privilege and joy of abiding in him and knowing him.

- 1) Give thanks today that the Father has revealed Himself to you in the person of Jesus Christ, and that He has brought you from death to life by faith in Jesus.
- 2) Pray that He would grant you the spirit of wisdom and revelation, that you might know him better (Ephesians 1:17) and enjoy Him more as you grow as a follower, an apprentice of Jesus.
- 3) Complete this statement: I will seek to know God through Jesus better by thinking or doing:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

- 4) Who has God put on your heart that needs to know him? Call out their name and pray that you would have the Holy Spirit's power to love them and share with them in a way that makes much of Jesus. Remember in Christ you have been empowered to be His witness. Do not trust in your ability and authority to do this but in the authority and ability of the One who goes before you, the One who is with you in every conversation, every act of service, and the One who works in the person's life after the conversation.
- 5) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.”

DAY 6

V. 3 – “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

Jesus Christ whom you have sent. Jesus was sent by the Father to rescue and redeem. He came to call us to know him and make him known. In John 20:21, Jesus said, “*As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.*” Jesus’ disciples are called and sent to be disciple-makers.

- 1) Praise God today for the privilege of walking with Jesus, knowing Him, and making Him known to others.
- 2) In your own words, how would you explain eternal life to someone? And based on the truth of v. 3, how would you respond to someone who tells you “*I do not need Jesus to have a relationship with God?*”
- 3) Ask the Father to show you where and to whom you are sent as a witness. Reaffirm your willingness to go wherever He calls you to go and do whatever He calls you to do.
- 4) Pray that the Holy Spirit would make you effective in calling others to follow Jesus and helping them walk as followers of Christ.
- 5) Ask God to help you use that effectiveness in praying for and inviting others to Good Friday and Easter to sit with you.
- 6) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.”

DAY 7

V. 4 - *I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.*

I glorified you on earth. With confidence, Jesus could say to his Father, “*I glorified you on earth.*” From the cross, Jesus cried out, “*It is finished.*” Mission accomplished. He has done everything necessary to save you and me.

Colossians 1:13–14 tells us this: “*He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*” The Father gets glorified in the finished work of the Son.

- 1) Express your joy and gratitude for the salvation you have received by faith in Jesus. Ask God to drive the good news of Jesus deep down into your own heart.
- 2) If Jesus’ number one priority was to glorify the Father then what does that mean for His followers today?
- 3) What was the work Jesus finished in v. 4? How is it different than what He finished on the cross? And how is Jesus inviting you, yes you, to join Him in this work that He finished in v. 4?
- 4) To what degree does the glory of God influence your daily life and everyday decisions?
- 5) Where are you still prone to try to earn or maintain your salvation? Confess and repent of all self-righteousness and lean into the grace of Jesus.
- 6) Pray for friends and family members who have yet to believe the glorious good news of Jesus. Ask God to make you a faithful witness to His saving power. A good first step would be looking for opportunities to invite them to services over Easter.
- 7) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.”

WEEK

PRAYING
FOR OUR
CHURCH

2

TWENTY ONE
DAYS

DAY 8

V. 6 – “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.”

Jesus came to show us the glory of His name and reveal to us the way of salvation. Acts 4:12 says, "*And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*" By God's grace, we know and believe that name. Just as Jesus manifested the Father to those whom were in His sphere of influence. Ask God how might you continue to manifest the Father to or how there might be someone in your sphere of influence that God is putting on your heart. Make time and space for that person today even though it may not happen until later. If you are having a hard time in hearing God on this matter consider fasting.

- 1) Give thanks for your brothers and sisters, your family members, at Montavilla Church who have believed on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2) Write down what comes to your mind when you think of the word *glory*? How is glory used in today's culture?
- 3) Ask God to fill His people with confidence as we live by faith in the one who loved us and gave Himself up for our salvation.
- 4) Pray that we would be joyful worshipers, lifting up the name of Jesus and calling others to believe and be saved.
- 5) Lift up those who will lead our Good Friday and Easter services to bring honor to His name! Specifically, pray for Debs Vaughan, our worship pastor and Travis Mitchell, our lead pastor, as they work together as partners for these services. Pray for the staff and music team as well, as they also give input.
- 6) Pray for your "7 for Heaven."

DAY 9

V. 6 – “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.”

God’s word to us, His call, is for us to believe that Jesus is His Son, who has come to redeem us. John 1:11–12 says, “*He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*” We are His children by faith in His Word.

- 1) Remember today that you have been saved by grace through faith, and express your joy to God for this precious gift.
- 2) Ask God to reveal himself to the next generation at Montavilla Church, calling them to become disciples by believing in His name and trusting in His Word.
- 3) Lift up our youth and children’s ministry as they lead our next generation for Easter. Specifically, pray for Juliann Krosting, our children’s pastor & Eric and Mary Peterson, our youth pastors. May God’s kingdom grow because of our children & youth saying YES to Jesus.
- 4) Pray that as family members we would be faithful to encourage one another to continue to walk by faith, not by sight, in Jesus.
- 5) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.”

DAY 10

V. 8 – “*For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.*”

They have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you. The disciples knew that what Jesus had spoken was true and right. In John 6:68–69, Simon Peter confessed to Jesus, “*You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.*” Oh, the joy of trusting Jesus, of knowing and believing the one who is the Word of life.

- 1) Give thanks to the people He has used to witness to you, leading you to believe the truth of the good news of Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to fill your family members at Montavilla Church with gratitude for the good news and make us bold in calling others to continually to say YES to JESUS.
- 3) Ask God to make you alert to opportunities to witness to those around you. Pray for courage and boldness in being a disciple-making disciple, as well as inviting others to be with you on Good Friday and Easter.
- 4) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.” As you have been persistently praying for your 7 for heaven, if there has been any encouragement so far, do share with someone. As we persistently pray we need encouraging stories.

DAY 11

V. 9 – “I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.”

Jesus prayed for the disciples whom He had come to rescue and redeem. He was committed to their flourishing and faithfulness. Titus 2:14 says that Jesus “*gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*” What have been some of the good works you have done to which you were created for? What might be God calling you to some of the good works that you have yet to walk in?

- 1) Give thanks today to all those in our church family whom God has called to be His very own, redeeming them by His blood.
- 2) Pray that we would be faithful to encourage one another to trust in the sufficiency of Christ’s work on our behalf.
- 3) Ask God to make us faithful in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Christ. It takes courage to speak the Truth in love to people. You need it. Others need it.

Suggestion: write a note to someone at Montavilla today letting them know you are praying for them.

- 4) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.”

DAY 12

V. 11 – “I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.”

Father, keep them in your name. He keeps us. He sustains us. Jude 1:24 says, “*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy...*” The work of salvation, from beginning to end, belongs to the Lord.

- 1) Pray that the people of God at Montavilla Church will be filled with joy as we wait for the fulfillment of all God’s promises.
- 2) Pray for those in your circle who might be struggling to persevere in their faith. Ask God to show you how to come alongside them in their struggle.
- 3) Pray that our pastors and staff would not grow weary but would walk in a manner worthy of the gospel.
- 4) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.”

DAY 13

V. 11 – “I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.”

That they may be one, even as we are one. Jesus was asking that His disciples would have unity like the union He and the Father enjoyed. But Jesus knew that kind of oneness would require the Father’s work in their lives just as it does in ours. And what Jesus prayed for, we should pursue. 1 Corinthians 1:10 says, “*I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.*”

- 1) Pray for unity in diversity in our church. Ask God to make our unity as family members a remarkable testimony to the reconciling power of the gospel.
- 2) Ask God to root out bitterness, unforgiveness, division, prejudice, pride, selfishness, and anything else that might divide us.
- 3) Pray that God would lead you in specific ways, so that you can engage in working to build bridges and cross divides. What bridges could you cross to invite someone to come with you on Good Friday or Easter?
- 4) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.”

DAY 14

V. 13 - "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them."

Jesus wanted all of his disciples to have His joy—full joy, unending joy, unspeakable joy. John 15:10–11 says, *"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."*

- 1) Pray today that your brothers and sisters at Montavilla Church will experience the joy of Jesus as they abide in Him and obey His Word.
- 2) Listen to a few worship songs that bring you joy. Share them with someone. Here are a few song suggestions that spark joy:

Joy in the Lord by Rend Collective - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3gLeCiMJqI>

Joy of the Lord by Maverick City - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbFq7YQM1Js>

Hymn of Joy by Chris Tomlin - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJOj9umiMjs>

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yZVweZ2Cvg>

- 3) Ask God to make our worship gatherings joy-filled celebrations of His goodness that draw others to the Savior. Begin praying now for our Good Friday and Easter services to point those who are searching to Jesus.
- 4) Pray that our children would see us delight in God more than the things of the world and that they would be drawn to Him because of our joy.
- 5) Pray for your "7 for Heaven."

WEEK

PRAYING FOR
OUR WORLD

3

TWENTY ONE
DAYS

DAY 15

V. 14 – “*I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.*”

And the world has hated them. Jesus had already warned the disciples that the world would hate them. John 3:19–20 says, “*And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.*” What the disciples experienced is repeated even in our day.

- 1) Ask God to protect and sustain brothers and sisters around the world who endure intense persecution because of their faith.
- 2) Pray that their faith and endurance would become a beacon of light to those in darkness. Ask God to use this Easter to build His church for His glory.
- 3) Thank God today that Christ in us is indeed our hope, and that greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4).
- 4) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.”

DAY 16***V. 15 – “My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.”***

Jesus did not deny or take lightly the work of the devil. He prayed that God would not allow the evil one to overcome. We have an Enemy who is seeking to kill, steal, and destroy. Jesus said that we should ask the Father to “deliver us from evil” (Matthew 6:13). We are dependent on Him to deliver us, our family and friends, and his children all around the world.

- 1) Ask God to make you, as well as your brothers and sisters around the world, alert to the schemes of the Enemy. Pray for faith and courage to withstand temptation and say YES to JESUS in the midst of the temptation as His Way, Life and Truth is always better.
- 2) Many Christians wonder how can you be in the world but not of the world - how would you respond?
- 3) Take a moment and confess the ways where you have stumbled to be in the world but not of it?
- 4) Pray that God would bring freedom from lies to all those who come to the Good Friday and Easter services.
- 5) Pray for confidence and faith to cry out and wait for deliverance, knowing that He hears and answers our prayers. Ask God to use Montavilla Church this Easter to be bold in proclaiming freedom from the evil one and own selves.
- 6) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.”

DAY 17**V. 17 – “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”**

God calls us to be holy even as He is holy. Ephesians 5 tells us that *“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish”* (vv. 25–27).

- 1) Pray that God would continue to sanctify and purify His church for His glory at Montavilla and His one Church all across Portland, the Pacific Northwest and America.
- 2) Ask the Father to raise up faithful pastors who would preach the Word of God, calling people to a life of faith and obedience.
- 3) Pray that the Holy Spirit would use these Easter services all across Portland to spark a great awakening of people’s need for Jesus.
- 4) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.”

DAY 18**V. 18 – “As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.”**

Jesus was sent by the Father. The disciples were sent by Jesus. In the same way, we have been sent to make disciples. Matthew 28:19–20 is our commission: “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*” What ministry has God sent you to be a part of whether at Montavilla and/or in the community?

- 1) Praise God for the privilege of knowing Him and making Him known.
- 2) How does Jesus’ sending actually influence your daily thinking?
- 3) Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where and to whom He is sending you, as you surrender yourself to his call to be a disciple-making disciple. Use this leading to invite others to Good Friday and Easter services!

Suggestion: identify an organization or group in your community that works with something you are passionate about (the poor, education, mental health, service, exercise, sports, etc). Intentionally join that organization to contribute to its work as a way of being sent by God to bring Jesus up close and personal presence there.

- 4) Pray that people would be sent from Montavilla Church to the nations. Pray specifically for college students and young adults to surrender to the call to go.
- 5) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.”

DAY 19**V. 20 - “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message”**

For those who will believe in me through their word. Jesus anticipated, even promised, that others would come to know and believe in him because of our testimony. Romans 10:14–15 says, “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’”

- 1) Pray that the preaching of God’s Word around the world would result in many coming to faith in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to raise up church planters and pray that gospel-preaching churches would be planted across the US and around the world, especially in unreached areas.
- 3) Pray vv. 20-26 in your own words for Montavilla and for churches in the Pacific Northwest.
- 4) Pray for the Good Friday service which is happening today at Montavilla. May all those who come gain a deeper appreciation for the sacrifice Christ made on our behalf.
- 5) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.” Call them out by name and ask God to lead them to respond in faith to the gospel.

DAY 20

V. 21 – “*that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*”

Jesus prayed earnestly that we would live together in unity, filled with love for one another, just as He and the Father lived in love. Our witness to His love is validated by our love for each other. John 13:35 tells us, “*By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*”

- 1) Pray that union with Christ would compel us to share the gospel and look for opportunities to invite those around us to hear the good news!
- 2) How would you describe the unity that Jesus prays for here? How does the unity of the Trinity have to do with our unity with other Christians?
- 3) Why would Christian unity make the world believe that God sent Jesus? Can you think of examples?
- 4) Ephesians 4:3 where we are to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit. How have you gone out of your way to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit at Montavilla? Is there anything you sense God is asking you to do this week to keep the unity of the Spirit?
- 5) Pray that we, along with our brothers and sisters around the world, would act with humility and love toward one another, willingly laying down our lives for others.
- 6) Ask God to grow a unified multiethnic church at Montavilla Church that puts the love of God on display for the watching world so people may believe that the Father sent Jesus.
- 7) Pray for opportunities for Montavilla to partner with like-minded churches and organizations to demonstrate unity in the Portland area, whether it's service or prayer nights.
- 8) Pray for those who are planning on coming tomorrow to the Easter service that nothing comes up that would change their plans.
- 9) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.”

DAY 21

Vv. 24-26 - “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.²⁵ “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

Father, I desire that they also ... may be with me where I am, to see my glory. What an incredible thought—one day we will see Him face to face. We will behold Him in all of his glory, and we will be like Him. 1 John 3:2–3 says, “Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.”

- 1) Praise God that by His Holy Spirit, He is continually calling people from every tribe tongue, and nation to know and believe that the good news of Jesus is truly good news.
- 2) Ask God to fill his people with love for him and for one another, so that the world may believe that Jesus is the Son of God.
- 3) Pray that the people of God around the world will continue to pursue righteousness and holiness as we wait for Jesus' return.
- 4) Ask God to use the Easter service today to reach the hearts of those you have invited to be a part of the services, either in-person or online. Pray for the seeds that were planted would grow and that they would return as we continue our teaching series “*That Thing We Do.*”
- 5) Pray for your “7 for Heaven.”

WHAT'S NEXT?

Montavilla Church family: what a joy to fast and pray together for these past 21 days. I'm confident that as we continue to abide in him, God will continue to work in us and through us for His glory. We hope that this time has encouraged you to invite others as well as prepare your hearts for our Good Friday and Easter services! And by the time you read this our services will have already passed and you can pray for the seeds that were planted by the conversations, music and message that they heard; whether it's at Montavilla or somewhere else. God be praised for He is the Savior of the World. Also, I'm confident that God did something in you as you sought Him in prayer over the duration of 21 days. We are often looking for a new word, a fresh revelation—but don't despise yesterday's word. Hang on to it; write down what you saw and heard from God. Share it with others. God's grace to you should be shared.

So, what's next? What we know for sure is that our need for God to reveal Himself and speak to us has not decreased. We cannot go on without Him keeping us, providing for us, and working on our behalf. We want to press in and seek His face with greater resolve.

What about prayer? If you established a new rhythm I want to encourage you to continue making that prayer habit a part of your daily life. And if you found these 21 days to be difficult, don't give up now. Press in and keep training yourself to seek God in prayer. Why not come and learn how to keep praying at the pre-service prayer on Sunday mornings at 8 am?

What about fasting? You can continue to pursue God by turning away from distractions and temporary pleasures to find satisfaction in Him. We'll continue to call you to fast, establishing regular days of fasting and prayer. It's an important part of the spiritual disciplines that drive us to rely on God. We have heard from countless numbers of you that you plan to continue to fast in different forms because of how you have known God more through what you have given up. The best is yet to come for Montavilla because and only because of Jesus!!!

For Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Travis Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

TWENTY ONE
DAYS